



“Yours for life”

“To be a successful farmer, one must first know the nature of the soil.”

-Xenophon, 400BC

Spring 2014

NCACSP

We are still accepting applications for the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (NCACSP). The top priority for our cost share program is erosion control and Stream Protection. We will begin looking at other applications this program provides cost-share money, up to 75%

reimbursement, for implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). These practices are intended to improve water quality by addressing nonpoint source problems. Examples of BMPs covered under the ACSP

include terraces, grassed waterways, livestock exclusion systems, livestock watering facilities, and many others.



No-till Drill Rental

The District has available for rent two 7' no-till drills. These drills require a 35 horsepower tractor with remote hydraulics and rent for \$8/acre. The fall is a perfect time for reseeding or establishing fescue pastures, grassed waterways, or establishing winter cover crops. The rental calendar is filling up fast, so if you are interested in renting a drill, please come by the office.



Nesting Boxes

Through conservation practices, most notably the construction of Wood Duck Nesting boxes and conserving natural habitats for breeding, Wood



Duck populations have slowly rebounded after serious decline in the late 19th Century. The Wood Duck is a year-round resident here in the South. Nesting boxes can be placed around, ponds, wooded swamps and creeks. The District

has available for sale Wood Duck nesting boxes for \$45/box. The box comes with instructions for mounting and information about nesting.

Envirothon

This is the time of year that students are starting to get ready for their Envirothon Team Competition. This is when the students across the state of North Carolina start studying and training for the Competition. The teams consist of students from local High School and Middle School and also home school, which each team having 3 to 5 people on a team. This is a training and solving skills competition centered on five testing categories: soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues. The high school teams have oral presentation added to their competition to test their knowledge of all the tested subjects and use critical thinking to solve problems and present their solution to a panel of judges.

The Area III Competition will be held at Elon College on Tuesday, March 25th. There the team will work together to take test in each category. The top 7 teams at the high school level and middle school will qualify to compete in the State Competition that will be held April 25 & 26, 2014. Lee County will have two teams participating this year. There will be a team from SanLee Middle School and also one from Lee Early College. The winner of the State Competition normally goes on to compete in the North American Envirothon and compete against teams from across the US and Canada but that event had to be cancelled this year. The NC Envirothon is sponsored by the NC Associations of Soil and Water Conservation. Locally it is sponsored by the Lee County Soil and Water Conservation District.

For more information please visit www.ncenvirothon.org or www.ncarea3envirothon.org or contact the Lee County Soil and Water District.

Contest

The Lee County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors a conservation poster, essay and public speaking contest every year. The contest has been in existence for more than 50 years. The poster contest is held for fifth grade students, essay for sixth grade and public speaking contest is for seventh and eighth grade students.

The contest work toward educating our youth on the importance of conserving our natural resources. It helps the students think about conservation. This year the theme of our contest is **“The Living Soil”**. Each year Lee Soil and Water host a banquet to recognize the winners of the contest.

Winners of Contest

This year in the Poster Contest we had over 140 entries. Josephine Poston, fifth grader at J.R. Ingram received top honors in the local poster contest. After winning in the Lee District, her poster advanced to the Area III Piedmont Contest in which she was awarded second place in that

competition. The second place winner was Kate Martin from Tramway Elementary. Nanchesca was the third place winner from J. Glenn Edwards Elementary and Nathan Gray from Broadway Elementary was the fourth place winner. Claudia Castro Reyes from Greenwood Elementary and Ethan Gurwitch from Lee Christian were the winners from their schools.

Isabel Privado took first place in the sixth grade essay contest and read her award winning essay to the audience. She advanced to the Area III Piedmont Competition where she came in first place. She will compete at the state level in May. She is a student at SanLee Middle School. The second place finisher in the local essay competition was Mia Knecht from Lee Christian.

Taylor Schwab, seventh grader at SanLee Middle School, was presented first place in that public speaking contest. She also went on to win second place in the Area III Piedmont Contest.

Alanna Lawson, 8th grader from SanLee Middle School, was awarded 1st place in the 8th grade public speaking contest. She also won 1st place in the Area III Piedmont Contest and will compete at the state level in May.

All first place district finishers received plaques presented from the Lee Soil and Water Conservation District for their accomplishments. All award winning students received certificates, ribbons and a monetary gift from the Lee SWCD.

Donette O’Neal from J. R. Ingram, Patrice McNeill from SanLee Middle School and Bonnie Marshall from SanLee Middle School were recognized as teachers for the first place winners in each of the contest. They received a cash prize award to be used toward educational supplies.

Conservation Farm Family

Tommy and Amy Dalrymple, of Dalrymple Farms, were recognized as the Conservation Farm Family in Lee County for 2014. The Dalrymple’s actively take the initiative to implement conservation

practices on their cropland to reduce erosion and improve water quality. Having farmed productive soils now for 200 years, they continue to look for ways to conserve and protect these resources to ensure future productivity. They are also actively involved in conservation educations, having hosted the annual 4-H Environmental Field Day for the past 40 years.

Current Board and Staff

Michael Gaster, Chairman (Elected)

Tony Ragan, Vice-Chair (Appointed)

David Dycus, Secretary/Treasurer (Appointed)

Tommy Dalrymple, Member (Elected)

John Gross, Member (Elected)

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